



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

2003 Assembly Bill 409

**Senate
Amendment 1**

Memo published: November 10, 2003

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Background

Section 45.43 (5), Stats., sets forth a number of duties of county veterans service officers (CVSOs). One such duty is to advise persons living in the CVSO's county who served in the U.S. armed forces regarding any benefits to which they may be entitled or regarding any complaint or problem arising out of such service and to provide them and their dependents with all possible assistance.

As originally drafted, Assembly Bill 409 would require CVSOs to provide the same type of services and assistance to members of the national guard and reserve units of the U.S. armed forces and their dependents.

With the ongoing activation and deployment of national guard and reserve units in the state, CVSOs are receiving more calls for information on military points of contact for activated and deployed units and general deployment information, as well as potential benefits for which guard and reserves members may be eligible. These requests for information directed to CVSOs raised the concern that CVSOs may not have the information they need to respond to questions concerning military points of contact and deployments.

Assembly Bill 409, as Passed by Assembly

The version of the bill passed by the Assembly is Assembly Substitute Amendment 1, as amended by Assembly Amendment 1. As passed by the Assembly, the bill directs the adjutant general to provide to the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) information on all necessary military points of contact and general deployment information for activated and deployed members of the national guard. The DVA, in turn, must provide this information to the CVSOs. In addition, the bill permits DVA to provide CVSOs with information on military points of contact and general deployment information for reserve units.

The bill authorizes CVSOs to:

- a. Inform members of the national guard or reserves or their dependents living in the CVSO's county regarding potential benefits to which the members may be or may become entitled and all necessary military points of contact and general deployment information for activated and deployed members;
- b. Render all possible assistance to those members and their dependents; and
- c. Cooperate with federal and state agencies which serve or grant aids or benefits to members and their dependents.

Senate Amendment 1

Senate Amendment 1 deletes the language in item b., above, that permits CVSOs to render all possible assistance to national guard and reserves members and their dependents.

Legislative History

Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 was introduced by Representative Terry Musser on September 16, 2003. In executive session on September 17, 2003, the Assembly Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs adopted the substitute amendment on a vote of Ayes, 13; Noes, 0, and recommended passage of the bill, as amended, also on a vote of Ayes, 13; Noes, 0.

Subsequently, Representative Musser introduced Assembly Amendment 1 to the substitute amendment. On October 21, 2003, the Assembly adopted Assembly Amendment 1 to Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 and passed the bill, as amended, both on voice votes.

The Senate Committee on Homeland Security, Veterans and Military Affairs introduced and adopted Senate Amendment 1 to the bill and recommended concurrence in the bill, as amended, both on votes of Ayes, 5; Noes, 0, on October 30, 2003.

PS:tlu